

Hook and killed one of her crew. The most intense excitement ensued. The President immediately issued a proclamation calling for the arrest of the *Leander's* commander, and prohibiting the furnishing of all supplies to her and to two other British vessels in her company. The United States Minister in England was immediately notified and instructed as to 'what reparation to demand from that government.

In the midst of such disturbed foreign relations, Jefferson's Government was menaced by a danger at home, which seemed to strike at the very integrity of the Union. Aaron Burr was again to figure as the evil genius of the administration. As Vice-President he had been regarded as a man without a party; his ambition in New York State had been thwarted by Hamilton; and he had killed Hamilton in a duel. Though under indictment for murder, he sat as Vice-President during the session of 1804-5; and in the early spring of 1805, he had gone west, avowing to his intimates that he had forever done with life in the United States. Many rumors were current as to the projects on which he was engaged, but men agreed in ascribing to him plans for the conquest of Mexico from Spain. It was also a matter of common report that he had spent much time with General Wilkinson, the commander of the Army in the Western Territory, and with Gen. Andrew Jackson, then in civilian life at Nashville, Tennessee. In November, 1805, he had returned to Washington and remained there several months, sounding every officer of the Army and Navy suspected of disaffection

to the administration. So cautious, however, had he been, that while none embraced his schemes, none thought it necessary to warn the government.

In August, 1806, Burr again went west, and purchased a large tract of land in Kentucky. News came that the new estate was the scene of extensive preparations for a military expedition. Jefferson was not entirely ignorant of Burr's movements, for one Daveiss, the United States Attorney for the District of Kentucky, had written to him several times in regard to them. But Daveiss' information had not alarmed him. He was for the first time put seriously on his guard by an interview which